

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION**

**THOMAS DOUGLAS, as Administrator  
of the Estate of SEBERA GAYLE DOUGLAS,  
deceased,**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**PACTIV CORPORATION and  
LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,**

**Defendants.**

**CASE NO. 2:06-cv-188-WKW**

**DEFENDANTS' JOINT RESPONSE TO  
PLAINTIFFS' REPORT TO COURT**

At the May 23, 2006 Scheduling Conference, Plaintiffs' counsel sought leave to take expedited depositions of ten witnesses to preserve their testimony. Plaintiffs filed a list of these ten individuals on May 25. The list included six plaintiffs and four fact witnesses. Pursuant to the Court's May 25 Order, the parties have engaged in ongoing discussions over the past week in an attempt to schedule and set parameters for the depositions.

On June 7, 2006, Defendants provided a revised, detailed proposal to Plaintiffs (attached as Exhibit A) setting forth a framework for the depositions and based on the parties' ongoing discussions. On the same date, Plaintiffs unexpectedly informed the Court that "the parties could not agree" as to timing and asked that the Court establish dates and time limits for the expedited depositions. Defendants, however, continue to believe that the parties can resolve these issues without the Court's assistance and remain willing to work with Plaintiffs' counsel to agree on the process for the expedited depositions.

So the Court does not start from scratch should it become involved in the expedited deposition guidelines, the status of discussions can be quickly summarized. Defendants understood that the parties agreed to the steps for deposing the six named plaintiffs (Exhibit A):

- (1) so that Defendants can collect and review the medical records (to the extent possible) per signed authorization, the depositions would begin by July 10 and finish by August 11;
- (2) abbreviated discovery depositions (in lieu of paper discovery) would immediately precede each preservation deposition; and
- (3) the preservation deposition would be limited to a single day.

It is unclear to Defendants if any of these guidelines are disputed.

Defendants understood that issues remained as to the depositions of the four fact witnesses, at least three of which were long-time facility employees. Defendants' general concerns about the extremely short preparation time for these depositions are already summarized in the Joint Response to Plaintiffs' Proposed Expedited Depositions (June 2, 2006).

To address these concerns, Defendants proposed the following framework for the fact witness depositions (Exhibit A):

- (1) the depositions would begin by August 14 and finish by September 22;
- (2) each witness preservation deposition would be preceded by an abbreviated discovery deposition;
- (3) the preservation depositions for Roberts and Partridge would be completed in a single day, barring extenuating circumstances;
- (4) Ezell's discovery and preservation deposition may each take longer than a day, given his almost five decades of involvement with the facility; and
- (5) if the deposition of Dukes (who Plaintiffs now advise does not in fact have any significant medical or health issues) occurs, it will be taken for discovery purposes only and not for the purpose of preserving his testimony.

Again, given Plaintiffs' "Report," it is unclear to Defendants which of these provisions is not agreeable.

Accordingly, if the parties are unable to reach an agreement on this matter by the close of business on Monday, June 12, 2006, Defendants respectfully request that the Court (or Magistrate) convene a conference to resolve any remaining disputes.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of June, 2006.

/s/ John C. Berghoff, Jr.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 8th day of June, 2006, I filed the foregoing via the CM/ECF system which will send notice of said filing to the following counsel for Plaintiffs:

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/s/ Matthew C. Sostrin  
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